(c) whether there is any scheme to bring such deposits self-sustaining insurance cover as in the case with deposits with nationalised banks; and

(d) if so, what is the scheme and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India/Government have been receiving complaints regarding default in repayment of deposits/payment of interest from depositors in respect of number of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). In the case of companies where a large number of complaints are received, RBI takes action against such companies, if it is found after verification that their regulations have not been complied with by the companies concerned. Such action will include issue of a prohibitory order to the company prohibiting it from accepting deposits. RBI have issued prohibitory orders during the year January to December, 97 to 28 NBFCs and from 1st January, 98 to 3 NBFCs so far.

(c) and (d) According to RBI, the deposits with NBFCs are not guaranteed or insured. The measures taken by RBI provide a degree of internal protection to the depositors' interest. If any NBFC fails to repay any deposit according to terms & conditions, the depositor can approach the Company Law Board (CLB) and the CLB can issue direction to the NBFC to repay the deposit forthwith or within the time specified by the Board subject to the terms & conditions specified in the order. Powers have also been given to RBI to prosecute NBFCs for non-compliance of CLB orders under Section 58B (4AAA) of RBI Act.

Issuance of Customs Duty Notifications Regarding Anti-Dumping Duty

1442. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the time required by Finance Ministry to issue customs notification after issue of anti-dumping notifications by the Commerce Ministry;

(b) in how many cases anti-dumping duty notifications have been issued by Commerce Ministry and in what time frame finance Ministry has issued Customs notifications in each such case; and

(c) whether Finance Ministry have issued any guidelines to reduce time-limit to minimum possible level to issue Customs notifications for anti-dumping duty, to avoid revenue loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) In terms of the provisions of the existing rules framed under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, the Central Government may impose final anti-dumping duty within three months of the date of publication of the final findings in the Gazette.

(b) The period for which the information is required is not indicated in the question. However, during the year 1997-98, the Commerce Ministry have issued notifications for imposition of final anti-dumping duty in 6 cases. Notifications have been issued by the Finance Ministry in 5 of these cases. In all these cases, notifications have been issued within the time-limit. One case is still under examination. In the current financial year, no notifications relating to imposition of final anti-dumping duty have been issued.

In the 5 cases mentioned above, the notifications were issued by Finance Ministry within a period ranging between

10 days to 40 days, of the notification issued by the Commerce Ministry.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Agricultural Finance Development Corporation

1443. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Agricultural Finance Development Corporation to provide credit support needed for high-tech agricultural activities in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether any proposal to set up such a corporation in the State is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) to (d) To promote investment in commercial and high technology agriculture and allied activities, State Level Agriculture Development Finance Companies (SLADFCs), with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Develpment (NABARD) as the Chief promoter have been set up in three States, so far. However, as reported by NABARD, in view of the lukewarm responses from public sector as well as the private sector in Maharashtra for equity participation, the proposal to set up such a company in the State stands deferred.

Misuse of Anti-Poverty Funds

1444. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the World Bank claimed that India misused anti-poverty funds;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to clarify the position and also to speed up reforms?

THE MINISIER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) No Sir, the World Bank has not claimed that India misused anti-poverty funds. However, in their report titled "India: Achievements and challenges in Reducing Poverty" published in May 1997, the World Bank has concluded that anti-poverty programs have not been cost effective in reducing poverty.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreigners' Participation in Insurance Sector

1445. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the course of his address to the heads and directors of financial institutions and business corporations at Asia House in London in April, 1998, he assured them that the new Government was committed not only to continue the economic reforms but also broadening it; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the programme and whether the insurance sector is also proposed to be opened for foreigner and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) The details of National Agenda for Governance in so far as it relates to the reforms in the financial sector including the insurance sector were explained by the Finance Minister to the business corporations at Asia House in London in April, 1998. During the Course of the discussions, he stressed the need for introducing competition in the insurance sector. It is a part of National Agenda.